

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated March 15, 2010, the Assignee respectfully requests continued examination and reconsideration based on the above amendments and on the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 and 16-33 are pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims under § 103 (a)

The Office rejected claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,526,581 to Edson in view of U.S. Patent 4,839,894 to Rudish, *et al.*

These claims, though, are not obvious over *Edson* with *Rudish*. These claims recite, or incorporate, features that are not disclosed or suggested by *Edson* with *Rudish*. Independent claim 1, for example, recites “*routing the telephony signals to an input of a frequency demultiplexer*” and “*sending the telephony signals from an output of the frequency demultiplexer to an input of a frequency crossbar that bridges inputs to different transceivers and to different telephony ports.*” Independent claim 1 also recites “*bridging the output of the frequency demultiplexer in the frequency crossbar to one of the telephony ports based on a frequency of the voice signals*” and “*routing the digital subscriber line signals to the input of the frequency demultiplexer.*” Independent claim 1 also recites “*sending the digital subscriber line signals from another output of the frequency demultiplexer to another input of the frequency crossbar*” and “*bridging the another output of the frequency demultiplexer in the frequency crossbar to another telephony port based on the frequency of the digital subscriber line signals.*” Independent claim 1 also recites “*receiving Ethernet signals at a transceiver and bridging the Ethernet signals in the frequency crossbar to a different one of the telephony ports.*” Support for all these features may be found at least at paragraphs [0040] - [0043] and at FIG. 5 of the as-filed application. Independent claims 11, 16, 22, and 28 recite similar features.

These features are not obvious over *Edson* with *Rudish*. *Edson* uses interface cards to provide interfaces between a gateway and home devices. See U.S. Patent 6,526,581 to Edson at column 3, lines 25-30 and at column 4, lines 20-35. The gateway includes interface cards to internal, in-home networks, such as HPNA, powerline, wireless, and Ethernet networks. See *id.* at column 10, lines 45-60. Each interface card provides a two-way conversion. See *id.* at column 10, lines 57-59. The gateway's processor automatically detects each device and selects the appropriate interface. See *id.* at column 11, lines 10-20. *Rudish* describes a multiplexer/demultiplexer for microwave bands. Still, though, the combined teaching of *Edson* with *Rudish* fails to teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims. One of ordinary skill in the art, then, would not think that claims 1-14 and 16-33 are obvious over *Edson* with *Rudish*. The Office is thus respectfully requested remove the § 103 (a) rejection of the pending claims.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 469-2629 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Scott P. Zimmerman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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